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Letters to the Editor

Freeze Marchers & Soviet Drummers

Your tendentious lead editorial of Dec. 20 simply cannot go unchallenged. The editorial implies that the transcript of hearings on Soviet "active measures" conducted in July 1982 by the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence does not support my statement that those hearings "provide no evidence that the Soviets direct, manage, or manipulate the nuclear freeze movement." Nowhere does the editorial produce evidence from those hearings which contradicts my statement.

Instead, the Journal charges me with a "hear-no-evil, see-no-evil attitude", while totally ignoring my public statement at the time of the release of the transcript that "the material released today again demonstrates what we have known for a long time—that the Soviet Union utilizes considerable amounts of time, money and manpower, attempting both covertly and overtly, to influence individuals, organizations, and events in the United States and around the world."

The very purpose of the Committee's hearings was to make public as much as could be made public of what the Soviets are doing to manipulate—by use of fronts such as the World Peace Council—the policies of other governments in ways favorable to the Kremlin. If the hearings had produced evidence that the Soviets had succeeded in directing, managing or manipulating the nuclear freeze movement in the United States, the Committee would have so stated.

The Journal has done the American people a disservice by failing to focus on the true nature of those hearings, a disservice begun by the White House, which in its outbursts against the nuclear freeze movement incorrectly alleged that the Committee's hearings in 1980 on Soviet Covert Actions, and the 1982 hearings on Soviet Active Measures, contained evidence to support the Administration's charges.

If the Administration or the Journal have evidence that the U.S. nuclear freeze movement is being directed, managed or manipulated by the Soviets, such evidence should be provided to the American people at once.

EDWARD P. BOLAND (D., MASS.)
Chairman
House Committee on Intelligence
Washington

[As the editorial reported, testimony at the hearings established that members of the Communist Party, U.S.A., as well as representatives of organizations considered Communist fronts by the FBI, actively participated in planning for the June 12 nuclear freeze demonstrations, and that their purpose was to deflect any criticism of Soviet policy. We noted, as we are sure any other observer would, that such criticism was notably absent at the demonstration itself. If Rep. Boland wants to construe this testimony as an exoneration of Communist manipulation, it's a free country.—Ed.]